

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SAIGON 2492

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: CHINH LUAN REPORT ON CONGRESSMEMAN ABZUG'S MEETING
WITH ITS PUBLISHER AND OTHER VIETNAMESE PERSONALITIES

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE TO IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. UNDER BANNER HEADLINE "CODEL'S MOST DOVISH CONGRESSWOMAN MEETS
WITH CHINH LUAN," THE INFLUENTIAL SAIGON DAILY DEVOTED 15 COLUMN
INCHES ON FRONT PAGE AND 35 INCHES INSIDE MARCH 3RD ISSUE TO
DETAILED COVERAGE OF MEETING BETWEEN CONGRESSWOMAN ABZUG AND
NUMBER OF PROMINENT VIETNAMESE PERSONALITIES AT CHINH LUAN
EDITORIAL OFFICE ON MARCH 2ND. IN ATTENDANCE AT MEETING WERE
CHINH LUAN'S PUBLISHER, FORMER SENATOR DANG VAN SUNG, FORMER
PRIME MINISTER PHAN HUY QUAT, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN
DO, FORMER SENATOR HOANG XUAN TUU, LEADER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
DAI VIET PARTY, PROT. NGUYEN NGOC HUY, A MEMBER OF THE GVN
DELEGATION AT LA CELLE SAINT CLUND, DR. NGUYEN VAN THO, MEGISTRATE
HUYNH DUC BUU, PROF. NGUYEN HOANG CUONG AND DEPUTY NHAN MINH
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TRANG. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS TO MEMBERS OF CODEL.

2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF CHINH LUAN REPORT:

ASKED BY ABZUG HOW MUCH POPULAR SUPPORT PRESIDENT THIEU IS LOSING, THE REPLY WAS THAT THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO GIVE HER AN ACCURATE REPLY BUT THE FACT IS THAT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE DEMAND A CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM AND POLICY OF LEADERSHIP. PREVIOUSLY, BECAUSE OF THE AMERICAN ROLE, THE GVN RELIED COMPLETELY ON THE U.S. NOW IT MUST SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE VIETNAMESE MASSES BY ALLOWING THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN STATE AFFAIRS. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE GVN HAS NOT REALIZED THIS.

ASKED BY ABZUG ABOUT PEACE IN VIETNAM, THE REPLY WAS THAT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL POINT OF VIEW, THE UNITED STATE SHOULD USE ITS FORCE AND INFLUENCE TO COMPIL RUSSIA AND CHINA TO REDUCE ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM. FROM THE INTERNAL POINT OF VIEW, SOUTH VIETNAM MUST CARRY OUT REFORMS IN ORDER TO HAVE A POLITICAL LIFE. ALTHOUGH THIS GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, ITS TRU NATURE IN A MILITARIST GOVERNMENT, LACKING A POLITICAL ARM. THIS ARM SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY GROUPS OF POLITICIANS AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

ASKED BY ABZUG ABOUT THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE REPLY WAS THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS THE RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND NVN. NOW SVN WANTS TO HAVE POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ORDER TO HAVE MORE STRENGTH TO NEGOTIATE. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE GVN HAS NOT RELAXED ITS RESTRICTIONS AND HAS RESORTED TO REPRESSION AND ARREST. THE TWO FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD IN ALL HONESTY. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HELP VIETNAM TO BE STRONG BECAUSE THIS TIME, SOUTH VIETNAM WILL NEGOTIATE AND NOT THE U.S. ASKED BY ABZUG UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS PEACE COULD BE NEGOTIATED IF THE UNITED STATES WOULD GRANT ADDITIONAL AID, THE REPLY WAS THAT THIS WOULD BE THE JOB OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD MAKE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RE-ESTABLISH THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE GVN SHOULD BE ASKED WHETHER IT HAS WORKED OUT A POLICY FOR HONEST NEGOTIATIONS AND MR. THIEU SHOULD BE ASKED WHETHER HE HAS SUCH A POLICY.

ASKED BY ABZUG ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, THE REPLY WAS THAT POLITICAL PARTIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE PRESSED MR. THIEU TO CHANGE HIS POLICY TO OPPOSE THE COMMUNISTS MORE EFFICIENTLY. IF HE PERSISTS IN HIS MISTAKES, THEY WILL HAVE TO OPPOSE HIM.

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DURING THE MEETING, ABZUG SAID THAT IF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION DEMANDED A REDUCTION IN AID TO SVN, IT WOULD AT THE SAME TIME DEMAND THAT RUSSIA AND CHINA DO THE SAME TO NVN. SHE PROMISED THAT THE DELEGATION WILL DEMAND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAKE THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION CLEARER, AND BELIEVED THAT THE VIETNAM PROBLE COULD NOT BE SOLVED MILITARILY. ABZUG IS THE "DOVE" IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TERMS. SHE HAS DEMANDED THAT THE GVN ALLOW HER TO MEET STUDENT-LEADER HUYNH

TAN MAM. END SUMMARY.

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